

## Message Text

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61  
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CCO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /066 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/SE:JGDAY/BR

APPROVED BY EUR:LBLAINGEN

S/S - MR. SEBASTIAN

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O 102135Z AUG 76 ZFF5

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

INFO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 198408 TOSEC 200288

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR, UNSC, GR, TU

SUBJECT:AEGEAN DISPUTE

1. UK EMBASSY (CORNISH) CALLED ON LAINGEN AUG 10 TO GIVE  
US FOLLOWING FOREIGN OFFICE CABLE CONTAINING PRELIMINARY  
HMG VIEWS ON GREEK MOVE IN UNSC:

2. BEGIN TEXT.

-- 1. MR. KARAMANLIS INFORMED MR. VAN DER STOEL ON 9  
AUGUST INTER ALIA THAT GREECE HOPED THAT THE SECURITY  
COUNCIL WOULD ADOPT A RESOLUTION WITH THE FOLLOWING CON-  
TENT:

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-- (A) THE ACTIVITIES OF THE SISMIK ABOVE THE DISPUTED

AREAS OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF SHOULD CEASE;

-- (B) THE PARTIES SHOULD BE ADVISED TO SUBMIT THE QUESTION TO THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE OR TO RESUME DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS.

MR. KARAMANLIS STRESSED THE EXTREMELY DANGEROUS SITUATION WHICH WOULD ARISE IF SUCH A RESOLUTION WAS NOT PASSED OR IF TURKEY IGNORED IT.

-- 2. HMG CONSIDER IT IMPORTANT TO AVOID ENTERING INTO THE SUBSTANCE OF THE DISPUTE AND NOT TO TAKE SIDES. THE GREEKS APPEAR TO BE ASKING FOR TOO MUCH IN POINT (A). IT IS UNREALISTIC FOR THE GREEKS TO EXPECT HMG OR GOVERNMENTS SHARING OUR VIEWS TO PROMOTE THE CONTINENTAL SHELF CLAIMED BY GREECE. UP TO 24 JULY IT WAS A QUESTION OF FINDING A WAY BY WHICH THE SISMIC'S OPERATIONS COULD BE MADE TOLERABLE TO GREECE WHILE REMAINING SATISFACTORY TO TURKEY. THE AIM SHOULD BE TO GET BACK TO THAT SITUATION, ALTHOUGH GREECE'S INTENTIONS ARE MAKING IT INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT TO SEE A WAY BACK.

-- 3. ON POINT (B) ABOVE, IT SEEMS IMPORTANT TO DISTINGUISH MORE CLOSELY BETWEEN THE PROBLEMS FOR DISCUSSION. THE FIRST AND MOST URGENT TASK WHICH SHOULD BE ENJOINED ON THE PARTIES SHOULD BE AS OUR COREU TELEGRAM CONTAINED IN MY TELEGRAM NO 183 TO UKDEL NATO SUGGESTED, TO RESUME THEIR DISCUSSIONS ABOUT THE OPERATION OF THE SISMIC AND REACH AGREEMENT ON TERMS WHEREBY IT CAN CONTINUE TO OPERATE WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THE POSITION OF EITHER SIDE. THE SECOND AND LONGER-TERM TASK WOULD BE FOR THEM TO PURSUE A RESOLUTION OF THEIR FUNDAMENTAL DISPUTE ABOUT THE DEFINITION OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF. NO RESOLUTION WHICH SIMPLY URGES THE PARTIES TO GO TO THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE IS LIKELY TO BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE TURKS AND NO SUCH RESOLUTION IS THEREFORE LIKELY TO BE EFFECTIVE. IN ANY CASE, BILATERAL DISCUSSION WOULD BE NECESSARY BEFORE ANY RECOURSE TO THE COURT BY THEM BOTH. POINT (B) ABOVE MIGHT HOWEVER BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE TURKS, GIVEN THAT THEY HAVE NOT REPUDIATED THEIR 1975 ACCEPTANCE OF THE PRINCIPLES  
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PLE OF REFERRING THE MATTER TO THE COURT, AS LONG AS IT CONTINUES TO BE PHRASED IN THE EITHER/OR FORM GIVEN IT BY MR. KARAMANLIS AND AS LONG AS THE REFERENCE TO DIRECT DISCUSSIONS PRECEDES THAT TO THE ICJ. WE ARE NOT HOWEVER FULLY INFORMED ABOUT THE GREEK INTENTIONS TO APPEAL UNILATERALLY TO THE ICJ IN PARALLEL WITH AN APPEAL TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL. IF THEY DO THIS, IT MAY MEAN THAT ANY REFERENCE TO THE ICJ IN ANY SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION

OR COMMUNICATION TO THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT WOULD BECOME  
UNACCEPTABLE TO THE LATTER.

-- 4. IF THE ANALYSIS ABOVE IS GENERALLY SHARED BY  
WESTERN GOVERNMENTS, IT MAY BE AS IMPORTANT TO MAKE THEIR  
VIEWS CLEAR IN ATHENS IN ORDER TO DEMONSTRATE TO THE GREEKS  
THE LIMITS OF WHAT THEY CAN EXPECT FROM THE INTERNATIONAL  
COMMUNITY AS TO MAKE REPRESENTATIONS IN ANKARA. AFTER ALL,  
THE ACTIVITIES OF THE SISMIK MAY BE CHALLENGING BUT THEY

ARE PEACEFUL. THE THREAT TO THE PEACE COMES FROM THE  
TEMPTATIONS TO VIOLENCE WHICH THE GREEK GOVERNMENT IS  
FACING. END TEXT.

5. LAINGEN TOLD CORNISH THAT VIEWS OF HMG DESCRIBED  
ABOVE WERE VERY CLOSE TO OUR OWN. WE WOULD WANT TO KEEP  
IN CLOSE TOUCH AS WE GET CLEAERER PICTURE AS TO WHAT  
GREEKS AND TURKS WOULD BE SEEKING IN UNSC. ROBINSON

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
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